

Dear Residents,

I want to express my sincere gratitude to all residents that continue to combat the spread of COVID-19. Across our community, residents and staff are taking extraordinary steps to protect the health and safety of our loved ones, friends, neighbors, and caregivers. Your support and willingness to help are an inspiration to us all—and a reminder that if we band together, we can overcome any challenge.

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has thrust our community into unknown territory. We recognize this is a frightening time and that many in our community have faced both health and economic impacts. We are here to help.

Some key steps we are taking to combat the health and economic issues that are impacting our Town:

Appointed a health director for day to day developments

Already have reviewed our budget and identified areas that will be cut that will not affect our services going further.

We have already paid our Bond payments to keep our financial stability in tack.

We have purchased and distributed the proper PPE to our first responders and employees.

The last thing anyone wants is to lose a safe place to call home.

As supervisor, I want to ensure we can continue to support the personnel and staff who work every day to provide essential services to all residents. We are all in this together, and if we work together, we can weather this storm.

It is our hope that in the coming weeks and months our elected leaders will take steps to provide financial assistance to mitigate the hardships faced by residents. We value all our residents and will support efforts by our leaders to help support members of our community during this pandemic.

While maintaining the physical health of our residents and staff is our paramount concern, please know that we are also committed to your emotional well-being. Please reach out to members of your town board if you need any support. We never want you to feel alone, even as we adhere to the important practice of social distancing.

While we are working under reduced staffing to maintain safe, social distancing at Town Hall, The Town is continuing to operate to ensure that the essential services meet our residents needs.

As the weekend approaches with warmer weather and clear skies, we want to remind you about the importance of social distancing to make sure you and your neighbors stay healthy and do not contract this virus. The Town Board and I have tried to keep as many parks and outdoor facilities open so that you and your family can go outside, get some exercise and fresh air while remaining safe. We have closed all playgrounds, ballfields and ball courts in an effort prevent large numbers of people from congregating and meeting each other. If you go out and enjoy one of our parks this weekend, please remember to keep a safe distance from others so that everyone may continue to enjoy the outdoors at these facilities.

These are difficult times that demand a lot from all of us, but we are a strong community and, together, we will get through this. I am confident that we will look back on this unprecedented health event and be proud of how well we cared for each other.

For more information, please visit our Town website, or the social media pages my colleagues and I maintain on Facebook. If you have questions regarding New Hartford Town services, please call our Contact Center during regular business hours at 315-733-7500.

Thank you for all that you are doing—and for being part of our extraordinary town. God Bless. *With gratitude*,

Paul Miscione, New Hartford Town Supervisor